

For Children up to 40 Pounds or 40 Inches

# CONVERTIBLE/TODDLER SEATS

## To Use a Convertible/Toddler Seat Correctly:

- Convertible seats are for children up to about 4 years of age and 40 pounds. This seat is used facing the rear while the baby is under one year old. It may be turned around to face the front when the baby is one year old and at least 20 pounds.
- NEVER use a rear-facing convertible seat in front of a passenger air bag. The air bag could cause severe injury and even death to a child.
- Use a convertible or toddler seat that is federally approved for use in a vehicle and conforms to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. An approved seat will have a label on it stating it is certified for use in motor vehicles.
- For infants up to 20 pounds and 12 months of age, the seat must always face the rear of the car. This protects the fragile head and neck. Some convertible seats are certified up to 30 pounds rear-facing.
- For infants, the seat should be semi-reclined so the baby's head does not flop forward. For toddlers, the seat should be upright and forward-facing.
- Both types of child seats should be securely anchored in the vehicle with the vehicle's safety belt. The seat should not move more than one inch from side to side, or back and forth.
- On a convertible seat, use the lowest harness slots for a rear-facing infant or keep the straps in the slots at or below the baby's shoulders. Move the harness straps to the topmost slots when the seat is faced forward.
- The safest place for all children is the back seat. The middle of the back seat is recommended if the seat will fit there because it is the farthest point from impact in a crash.



- Be sure to read the manufacturer's directions for the car seat and also the vehicle owner's manual for installation tips.
- The seat must be destroyed and replaced if involved in a crash. Child car seats are designed to be used in only one crash.
- Never purchase or use a second-hand car seat if you are unsure of its history.

## What is Michigan's Safety Belt Law?



- Children under the age of four must be restrained in a car safety seat in the front and rear seat.
- 4 - 16 years in a safety belt in the front and rear seat.
- 16 years and older in a safety belt in the front seat. A safety belt is recommended, but not required in the rear seat.

## What is the Next Step?



A booster seat. Keep your child in a safety seat with a harness for as long as possible. When your child exceeds the height and weight limit for the convertible seat, move him or her to a car booster seat.

*For more information,  
please contact the  
Office of Highway Safety Planning  
at 517/333-5318  
or the National Highway  
Traffic Safety Administration's  
Auto Safety Hotline at  
1-800-424-9393.*